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DEAR HAL:

I HAD INTENDED WRITING TO YOU BEFORE THE NEW YEAR BEGAN BUT BECAUSE OF THE GULF WAR I BECAME VERY INVOLVED IN THE ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT HERE IN THE BAY AREA. WE'VE SINCE MOUNTED TWO VERY BIG DEMONSTRATIONS WHICH WERE HELD IN THE MONTH OF JANUARY. YOU PROBABLY READ SOMETHING ABOUT THEM IN THE WASHINGTON PRESS BUT KNOWING THE CREATURE THE PRESS IS IT PROBABLY WAS A DISTORTED ~~THE~~ *PICTURE OF WHAT HAPPENED.*

BY THE TIME YOU RECEIVE THIS OR PERHAPS SHORTLY THEREAFTER THE U.S. WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE IN A GROUND WAR. PROTESTS HERE WILL PROBABLY TAKE ON A MUCH MORE PROFOUND OUTRAGE AND MORE AND MORE GROUPS WILL BE WORKING TOGETHER TO STOP ALL THIS MADNESS. I'M REMINDED OF A QUOTATION BY GOETHE WHO SAID THAT THERE IS NOTHING MORE TERRIBLE IN THE WORLD THAN TO SEE IGNORANCE IN ACTION. OR MAYBE VOLTAIRE'S WORDS ARE MORE APPROPRIATE WHEN HE WROTE "ALLOW PEOPLE TO BELIEVE IN ABSURDITIES AND THEY WILL COMMIT ATROCITIES".

SPEAKING ABOUT OUR GLORIOUS FOURTH ESTATE, THE PRESS, I'M ENCLOSING A CARTOON AND AN ARTICLE WHICH APPEARED IN THE LOCAL BAY AREA ALTERNATIVE PAPERS (WHERE, AS USUAL, THE BEST AND MOST INSIGHTFUL REPORTING IS BEING WRITTEN). THE CARTOON IS ABOUT OUR OLD FRIEND, JIM EASON, WHO HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE WE KNEW HIM AND IS NOW FIRMLY IN THE SUPERHAWK RANKS. ALTHOUGH I DON'T LISTEN TO HIS RADIO PROGRAM SINCE I'M AT WORK WHEN HE'S ON I UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAS CALLED FOR A BOYCOTT OF ANY NEWSPAPER THAT DOESN'T PRINT REPRODUCTIONS OF THE AMERICAN FLAG DURING THIS GULF WAR PERIOD! THE LAST TIME I RAN INTO HIM A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK HE DID NOT SEEM TOO FRIENDLY AND WAS ACTING OUT HIS RADIO "PERSONA".

BY THE WAY SPEAKING ABOUT RADIO PERSONALITIES I RECEIVED A NICE LETTER FROM JOE DOLAN AFTER I HAD CALLED HIM WHEN I WAS IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA TO ATTEND A CONVENTION. HE GAVE HIS REGARDS TO YOU. HE'S VERY, VERY BUSY INVOLVED AS A JUDGE HANDLING JUVENILE CASES. I RECALL ON THE PHONE WHEN I SPOKE TO HIM THAT HE FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO COMPREHEND THE "STUPIDITY" OF THE YOUNG PEOPLE HE FACED IN COURT. JOE SENT ME SOME STUFF ABOUT JOE BALL WHICH HAD SOME COMMENTS ON BALL'S ROLE IN THE WARREN COMMISSION. I'LL SEND YOU A COPY OF IT WHEN I GET SOME OTHER STUFF TOGETHER I WANT TO ALSO SEND YOU. BUT THERE IS ONE INTRIGUING REMARK BY BALL WHICH I'M SURE YOU'LL FIND AMUSING (THIS IS FROM THE L.A. DAILY JOURNAL DATED 11/26/90 WHICH IS PROBABLY A LAW DAILY): "SOMEBODY RECENTLY CAME UP WITH AN AUDIO TAPE, ANALYZED BY A COMPUTER, WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE FOUR GUN-SHOTS ON IT. WE LISTENED TO THAT TAPE. (MY EMPHASIS, HAL). YOU CAN'T HEAR ANY SHOTS. BESIDES, THE TAPE WAS RECORDED OFF THE TWO-WAY RADIO OF A MOTORCYCLE POLICEMAN WHO WAS NOWHERE NEAR DEALEY PLAZA WHEN THE PRESIDENT WAS SHOT."

AS YOU CAN SEE, BALL'S "REBUTTAL" HAS OPENED UP A CAN OF WORMS HE'D BE HARD PRESSED TO DEFEND IF, INDEED, HE BELIEVES WHAT HE TOLD THE REPORTER. HE MOST LIKELY FIGURED THE REPORTER WOULDN'T QUESTION HIM AT ALL. (YOU MAY FIND IT AMUSING TO NOTE THAT THE REPORTER'S NAME IS G. BUSH!)

THE OTHER ARTICLE I'VE ENCLOSED IS ONE BY LAURA FRASER ON THE PRESS AND THE GULF WAR WHICH IS ONE OF THE BEST THINGS I'VE SEEN SO FAR. IT SHOULD GET A WIDER AUDIENCE AND MORE CIRCULATION. THE DUPLICITY AND DECEITFULNESS OF THE MAIN-STREAM PRESS IN ITS "KIDS GLOVE" APPROACH TO THE PENTAGON IS BEAUTIFULLY REVEALED.

I'VE BEEN WORKING ON UPDATING A COMPILATION OF ALL THE KNOWN FILMS TAKEN OF THE JFK ASSASSINATION AND HAD INTENDED TO SEND IT TO YOU BEFORE THE NEW YEAR ROLLED AROUND BUT HAD TO DELAY IT BECAUSE OF THE GULF WAR. IT'LL, OF COURSE, INCLUDE THE DCA FILM AND I HAD DOCUMENTED NOT ONLY WHAT YOU'VE DONE BUT WHAT OTHERS HAVE COMPILED. NATURALLY WHERE THERE IS A DOUBT ABOUT WHAT A PARTICULAR WRITER CLAIMS I'VE INCLUDED MY COMMENTS. AS FAR AS I KNOW NO ONE HAS DONE THE COMPILATION I'VE GOT LOGGED. I WANT TO HAVE IT PUT ON A COMPUTER SO THAT IT WILL BE A READABLE COPY INSTEAD OF MY POOR OVER-WORKED TYPEWRITER. I THINK YOU WILL FIND IT USEFUL.

BY THE WAY, I SPOKE ON THE JFK AFFAIR BEFORE A HUMANIST GROUP BACK IN NOVEMBER AND WAS WELL RECEIVED. I HAD ALSO INTENDED TO SPEAK IN S.F. ON THE CASE FOR THIS MONTH BUT HAD TO POSTPONE IT BECAUSE AT THIS POINT TO DISCUSS THAT CASE WITH THE OVERWHELMING QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE WAR WOULD'VE BEEN OBVIOUSLY UNPRODUCTIVE.

AS I MENTIONED BEFORE THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS I HAVE FOR YOU BUT I WILL GET AROUND TO SENDING THESE, HOPEFULLY, SOON. IN THE MEANTIME I HOPE EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL FOR YOU. WRITE WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE.

BEST,

Hal Verb
HAL VERB